

## Senate Honors Karen Nobumoto

On Tuesday, the Senate honored State Bar President Karen Nobumoto on the Senate floor. Kevin Murray (D- Los Angeles) is shown presenting Nobumoto a Senate resolution.



Karen Nobumoto, President, State Bar of California and Senator Kevin Murray.

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### The Budget

- The Legislature's two budget committees told us that the subcommittees will start their hearings on the Governor's 2002-03 budget in mid March.
- The [Legislative Analyst's Office](#) (LAO) which provides the Legislature nonpartisan analysis on the fiscal impact of legislation including the budget, will release its "2 1/4" thick "Analysis of the 2002-03 Budget Bill" on February 20. In addition the LAO will release another book called "The 2002-03 Budget: Perspectives and Issues." According to the LAO, the purpose of this book is "to assist the Legislature in setting its priorities and reflecting these priorities in the...budget bill and in other legislation."

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### Arbitration Oversight Hearing

**T**he Assembly Judiciary Committee conducted a day-long hearing on the issue of "Arbitration in Consumer Disputes: A Focus on the Providers" on Tuesday, February 12.

The hearing was convened by committee chair [Darrell Steinberg](#) (D-Sacramento) to explore allegations of abuse in the arbitration industry. A [story](#) on the hearing appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle.

### Upcoming Hearings

Most scheduled legislative hearings for the short (Monday, February 18, is a holiday) week of February 19-22, are of the informational variety. Only the Assembly Committee on Revenue & Taxation and the Senate Education Committee are scheduled to consider actual bills, and those calendars are very light.

On Wednesday, February 20, the Senate Rules Committee will consider whether the Senate should confirm the State Bar's appointment of [Mike Nisperos, Jr.](#), as its Chief Trial Counsel, as well as the Governor's appointment of [Janet Green and John Snetsinger](#) as public members of the Bar's Board of Governors. Because of the nature of his post, Nisperos, who was appointed by the Bar's Board of Governors in April 2001, is the only one of the three required to appear before the Senate committee